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AMERICAN REPUBLICS SERIES

GUATEMALA
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Metapán
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San Cristóbal Frontera
Texistepeque
Tejutla
CHALATENANGO
Chalatenango
San Lorenzo
Chalchuapa
Santa Ana
Coatepeque
Suchitoto
CABAÑAS
Ilobasco
Sensuntepeque
AHUACHAPAN
Ahuachapán
Apaneca
Juayua
Nahuizalco
Izalco
Sonsonate
Armenia
Acajutla
SONSONATE
CUSCATLAN
Tenancatepeque
Cojutepeque
SAN SALVADOR
Nueva San Salvador
Santa Tecla
Los Planes
La Hopanga
Apastepeque
San Vicente
Tecoluca
Santo Tomas
Panchimalco
LA LIBERTAD
La Libertad
Balsam Coast
Santiago Nonualco
Zacatecoluca
LA PAZ
La Herradura
Jiquilisco Bay
SAN VICENTE
USULUTAN
Usulutan
Jiquilisco
El Triunfo
MORAZAN
San Francisco Gotera
SAN MIGUEL
Mercedes Umaña
Berlin
Alegria
Jucuapa
Santiago de María
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LA UNION
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EL SALVADOR
Scale in Miles
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Pan American Highway System
Other all weather roads
Coastal Highway
International boundaries
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Capitals of Departaments
Railways
Volcanoes
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AMERICAN REPUBLICS SERIES

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PAN AMERICAN UNION
GENERAL SECRETARIAT
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
WASHINGTON, D. C.

THE AMERICAN REPUBLICS SERIES incorporates the basic information on each of the 21 member states of the Organization of American States formerly presented in two separate series: the American Nations and Travel in the Americas Series, both of which will be superseded by the new series upon its completion.

This series is prepared under the direction of Lyn S. Manduley, Chief Publications Editor, Editorial Division, Department of Public Information, Pan American Union, Washington, D.C.; this number, by Elizabeth McDaniel.

Photo Credits: National Tourist Bureau of El Salvador: all photos, except pp. 26 and 29; United Nations: p. 26 (left); Pan American Union: p. 26 (right) and p. 29.

The Beacon of the Pacific—Izalco Volcano

The land that is now the Republic of El Salvador was first visited by Spaniards in 1524. The scenic beauty of the region had no charm for men hungry for gold and only a few Spaniards settled permanently until later on. These intermarried with the Indians, herded cattle in the valley of the Lempa River, and raised their food in the highlands. Later, coffee-growing brought prosperity and more people to the quiet land, and El Salvador grew into the progressive republic we know today.

El Salvador is a land of great natural beauty. In one small package of 8,061 square miles, it offers a panorama of fascinating contrasts: volcanoes and volcanic lakes, fields of chocolate brown soil, and sloping hills green with coffee bushes and shade trees. The country is not only the smallest, but is also the most densely populated (298 persons per square mile) and the most industrialized of the Central American republics.

Wedged between Guatemala on the north and Honduras on the north and east, El Salvador is the only Central American republic without an Atlantic seacoast. It is washed by the waters of the Pacific on the east and south. With a maximum length of 160 miles and an average width of 60 miles, all of the country is easily accessible to tourists and businessmen.

El Salvador is a mountainous country—a succession of ridges and fertile valleys that show the scars of volcanic activity, and a narrow plain warmed by the tropical sun. Two mountain ranges traverse the country from west to east, one along the coast and the other, a part of the Central American Cordillera, along the Honduran border. Between the two mountain chains lies a region of plateaus about 2,000 feet above sea level, broken by numerous river valleys, the largest of which is that of the Lempa River.

The coastal mountains are marked by a series of volcanic peaks ranged like sentinels along the seacoast. Nowhere in the republic does one lose sight of the high smooth cones. Izalco (6,300 feet) is the most active volcano in Central America. The Santa Ana and San Miguel volcanoes usually have clouds of smoke and steam rising languidly from their cones. An important result of this volcanic activity is the deep layer of ash and lava which forms a porous soil, ideal for producing El Salvador's famous coffee.

Unlike many of the other Latin American republics, El Salvador's population of 2,475,660 * is fairly evenly distributed throughout the country, instead of being concentrated in one or two localities. From the point of view of economic activity the country may be divided into a central, a western, and an eastern zone.

Central El Salvador

The central zone, the most densely populated, consists of seven departments, including San Salvador Department in which the national capital is situated. San Salvador *(Holy Saviour),* the capital and largest city in the country, is a good base from which to tour the country. It is the commercial, industrial, and financial center of the Republic and has a population of 232,699 inhabitants. Railways and an excellent highway system connect San Salvador with all parts of the country. La Libertad, the port of entry for many visitors, is 23 miles from the capital. Ilopango Field, the airport of entry and one of the busiest airports in Central America, is about eight miles from San Salvador and a five-hour flight from Miami or New Orleans.

Situated at the foot of San Salvador Volcano in a pleasant semi-tropical valley, San Salvador is one of the most attractive of the Central American cities. It was the first city founded by the Spaniards in the region that is El Salvador today. Originally founded near the present-day town of Suchitoto in 1525, it was soon moved to its present location. Here it remained and grew steadily, in spite of the frequent earthquakes that have given the valley its name of "Valley of Hammocks."

Because the city was completely destroyed by earthquake in 1854, few traces of the colonial era remain. Modern buildings are usually low and solid, in deference to the city's liability to earth tremors; however, in recent years a number of six and seven-story office buildings of earthquake resistant design have been built. San Salvador is laid out in the form of a cross,

* Estimate at the end of 1958

446125

View of Plaza Barrios showing the National Palace

with four beautiful, broad avenues meeting at the center of the city at Plaza Barrios, the principle square.

Most of the city's important public buildings are found near this intersection: the National Palace, the Archbishop's Palace, the National Treasury, and several churches, the oldest being La Merced. The bell which rang out Father Delgado's first call for independence, in 1811, still tolls from La Merced's tower. The modern Club Salvadoreño, where residents and foreigners alike are welcome, is also located on a corner of Plaza Barrios. Behind the National Palace is a lively and entertaining public market—a good place to buy souvenirs.

Within walking distance of Plaza Barrios is the Jardín Infantil, formerly the Campo de Marte, one of the largest of the city's many well-planned parks. It includes an amusement park for children and excellent tennis courts. Parque Cuzcatlán, on Alameda Franklin Roosevelt, is also a favorite park. The National Museum, with its interesting collection of jade and pottery relics from the Mayan ruins, is next to the Presidential Mansion and the Zoological Gardens, not far from the central section of the city.

San Salvador's magnificent National Stadium, built especially for the 1935 Central American Olympic Games, and the new National Gymnasium attract sports-loving Salvadoreans and visitors alike to watch baseball, soccer, and other spectator sports.

West of San Salvador, on the Inter-American Highway (the name by which the Pan American Highway is known in Central America) is the lovely city of Santa Tecla; although officially renamed Nueva San Salvador, the old name clings persistently. Santa Tecla, capital of the Department of La Libertad, lies in a mountain-ringed valley; its cool climate and peaceful colonial atmosphere attract many residents from the busy capital, as well as tourists. In the outskirts of Santa Tecla is the Hippodrome, where horse-racing enthusiasts gather. The surrounding valley is covered with flourishing coffee plantations. Near the city is the research center of the Coffee Growers' Association, where all phases of coffee cultivation are studied.

Four miles west of Santa Tecla is Los Chorros, a deep narrow glen where hundreds of fountains spring from the high rocks and fall many feet into four natural swimming pools. Flowers and ferns cover the steep walls of the ravine, which is surrounded by a tropical park, an enchanting spot for swimmers and picnickers.

From Santa Tecla a dirt road winds up the side of the inactive San Salvador Volcano; one may walk from the end of the road to the crater in five minutes. The crater is a mile wide and half a mile deep. Good mountaineers can descend to the bottom where there is a small cone left by the eruption of 1917. From El Boquerón, on the rim of the crater, there is a magnificent view of volcanic peaks, the high mountains of northern El Salvador and Honduras, Santa Tecla and San Salvador, and Lake Ilopango with the volcano of San Vicente rising behind it.

Lake Ilopango, ten miles east of the capital, is a favorite resort of the residents of San Salvador. The shores of this large lake are dotted with vacation homes and resort hotels, alternating with the older Indian fishing villages. At Apulo the National Tourist Board has built

Beautiful Lake Ilopango

Popular Los Chorros

a modern park with a restaurant and facilities for bathing and fishing. A superb view of the whole lake may be seen from "La Cornisa" on a nearby hilltop accessible by road.

Twelve miles to the north of the capital is the town of Quezaltepeque and near it is one of the country's most beautiful spas, La Toma, with two natural swimming pools surrounded by shade trees. The mineral waters are said to have curative properties.

From San Salvador a good road winds south through beautiful mountain scenery, descending 2,200 feet to La Libertad, the republic's second port. This busy port-city serves San Salvador and the commercially active section of the surrounding country; it is also the country's leading seaside resort. Its novel beaches of black volcanic sand are especially attractive to visitors. There is excellent surf bathing and fishing all along the coast, where numerous beaches are now accessible via the new Coastal Highway. The hot tropical climate is tempered by cool sea breezes. There are good hotels

at La Libertad and the Club Salvadoreño and the Salvadorean Auto Club maintain beach houses here.

Visitors find a number of points of interest in a cool mountainous area south of the capital. The road leading from San Salvador to Panchimalco first passes through a rapidly growing residential section in the suburb of Planes de Renderos. At the summit of the mountains is Balboa Park where the National Tourist Board has built roads and paths through the beautiful woodlands. The works of Salvadorean artists such as the monument to the Heroes of Central American Independence, the Obelisk, the bust of José Simeón Cañas, and other sculptures representing ancient dieties are among the attractions of the park. Children enjoy the skating rink and a labyrinth. From the park a scenic road runs to the summit of Mount Chulul, where "the Devil's Door"—two enormous rocks rising perpendicularly over the precipice—frame a picture of deep blue skies, volcanoes, mountain ranges, valleys, the coastal plain, and the Pacific.

At the foot of Mount Chulul is Panchimalco, an Indian village whose low houses of adobe with thatched or tiled roofs, irregular cobblestone streets, and ageless ceiba tree shading the improvised market place give it an air of quiet antiquity. The town centers around a beautiful church of typical Spanish colonial architecture.

Zacatecoluca, 35 miles southeast of San Salvador, is the capital of the Department of La Paz and the center of a fertile region producing cereals, cotton, and tobacco in addition to the ever-prevalent coffee and sugar cane. Other local products are cattle, lumber, and salt. The city is the birthplace of the Salvadorean patriot, José Simeón Cañas, who fought for and secured freedom for the slaves in Central America 40 years before the Emancipation Proclamation by President Abraham Lincoln.

Near Zacatecoluca is the Park of Ichanmichen, "the home of the little fishes," a 50-acre tropical resort crossed by canals and containing swimming pools of novel design, including a small one for children. South of Zacatecoluca is the Jaltepeque Estuary, a favorite weekend resort for fishermen. The Sailing and Fishing Club of El Salvador has its headquarters on one of the islands. Sailing along the wide channels you pass mangrove swamps, quiet backwaters, roaring surf, and sandy beaches.

A few miles east of Lake Ilopango on the Inter-American Highway is Cojutepeque, capital of Cuscatlán Department, where rice, sugar, coffee, and henequen are grown. Cojutepeque is famous for its annual fair, to which villagers from far and near come to trade their native handicrafts and to enjoy the fiesta.

Cerro de las Pavas o de la Virgen, a conical hill near the city, gives a splendid view of the Jiboa Valley, Lake Ilopango, San Vicente Volcano, and the coastal plain. The shrine of the Lady of Fatima draws many pilgrims to this hill.

About ten miles north of Cojutepeque is the town of Ilobasco, where the famous miniature Salvadorean clay dolls are made. This is a town of workers in clay; besides the dolls, the Ilobascans make pottery of every kind, always of artistic design and fine craftsmanship. The beautiful countryside of this area is devoted to cattle, coffee, sugar cane, and indigo. A good road leads from Ilobasco to the great dam and hydroelectric station, *5 de Noviembre*, at Chorrera del Guayabo on the Lempa River. The new lake formed by the dam is rapidly becoming a popular tourist attraction and fishing resort.

Sensutepeque, east of Ilobasco, is a small town located 3,000 feet above sea level in the hills south of the Lempa Valley. Capital of Cabañas Department, it was once a great source of indigo. Today pottery and distilling are the major industries.

Just off the Inter-American Highway is the city of San Vicente, picturesquely nestled at the foot of San Vicente Volcano, a 7,000-foot giant. Situated in the valley of the Acahuapa River, San Vicente is capital of the department of the same name and the commercial center for sugar, cacao, cereals, and other agricultural products of this fertile valley. Unlike most of the other cities in El Salvador, San Vicente has tried to preserve its historical old buildings. Its church of El Pilar has an interesting history; it was here that

Fertile Ji Valley v San Vice Volc looming in backgro

One of Amapulapa Park's attractive swimming pools

the Indian chieftain, Anastasio Aquino, took the crown from the statue of St. Joseph and crowned himself King of the Nonualcos during the Indian rebellion of 1833.

The National Tourist Board has built the beautiful Amapulapa Park near the city. This garden spot, shaded by a giant ceiba and other trees, is one of the most attractive parks in eastern El Salvador. San Cristóbal Springs supply the water for three pools; one of which, designed with Olympic measurements for international competition, is probably the largest in Central America. The pools are built at different levels and sparkling water cascades from one to another. The Board is building soccer and basketball fields near the pools as part of its continuing program to provide healthy outdoor activity for all Salvadoreans and their visitors.

Two roads lead north from San Salvador across the rolling green valley of the Lempa River. One goes through Tonacatepeque, an attractive small town in an agricultural setting near which are some interesting archaeological remains, and crosses to Chalatenango, an old colonial city in the mountains to the north. The other road, more or less paralleling the Chalatenango road on the west, goes due north to the Honduran border. La Palma, in the mountains near the border, is becoming a popular mountain resort. Many private homes are being built and the Ministry of Labor operates "El Refugio," a development of bungalows for workers on vacation.

Western El Salvador

Santa Ana, Sonsonate, and Ahuachapán Departments make up the western zone and have a relatively large population. The Department of Santa Ana, occupying a large and fertile valley watered by many streams and rivers, is the richest coffee-growing region in El Salvador. The city of Santa Ana, capital of the department, is the hub of the western part of El Salvador and the second most important industrial and commercial city of the republic. Situated 2,123 feet above sea level on the slope of Santa Ana Volcano, the city is located on the Inter-American Highway and both railway lines of the republic.

This modern city of 130,976 inhabitants has good schools, hospitals, theaters, and other public buildings. Its cathedral (still under construction) is one of the finest examples of modern Gothic in the republic. Santa Ana's coffee mill, El Molino, is one of the largest in the world, making the city the coffee capital of the republic. Sugar cane is also an important product of this area.

The road from San Salvador to Santa Ana, a stretch of the Inter-American Highway, passes near Lake Coatepeque at the foot of Santa Ana Volcano. Smaller than Lake Ilopango, it is completely hemmed in by wooded hills and, having no outlet, its waters have a mineral content. A favorite weekend resort, the lake shores are lined with small hotels and private houses. The lake affords excellent bathing, fishing, and sailing and is famous for its beauty and for its mineral waters, which have earned it the name of "the Vichy of Central America."

North of Santa Ana there is also a region of great beauty. Hunters and fishermen find good sport in and around Lake Guija, on the Guatemalan frontier, and archaeologists are interested in the ancient Indian ruins on the shores of the lake and on its islands. The modern dam El Desague is situated near the lake's outlet to the Lempa River.

North of Lake Guija is the town of Metapán, known for its lime kilns, iron and lead mines, and for its beautiful Spanish colonial church, La Parroquia, with a handsome façade and carved wood interior—one of the purest examples of colonial art in El Salvador. Chalchuapa, ten miles west of Santa Ana, is a typically colonial city, whose principle attractions are the Church of Santiago and the nearby pyramid of El Tazumal, the most important of a group of Mayan ruins scattered in this area. A small picturesque lake of volcanic origin is not far from the pyramid.

The westernmost city in El Salvador is cool, quiet Ahuachapán, an important distribution center for the rich coffee-growing district surrounding it. There are many pleasant and easily accessible resorts near Ahuachapán. Llano del Espino, a large grassy plain forming a natural landing field for airplanes, attracts

El Tazumal, impressive ruin of Maya culture

A colorful market scene in Sonsonate

fishermen to its small lake where fish abound. Nearby is the Molino River tumbling in cascades down to the Falls of Atehuecián, where there is a small park.

Northeast of Ahuachapán, are the smaller Falls of Malacatiupán, unique because the water ranges in temperature from cold to hot, providing relief for persons with rheumatism and arthritis. About a mile from the city there is a volcanic field, described by one writer as "The Gateway to Hell." Here small cracks in the earth emit steam and sulphuric vapors which the wind twists into weird and fantastic shapes. Rumbling geysers, bubbling wells of mud, and soils of every color all add to the impression of a veritable inferno.

Fifty-three miles west of San Salvador is Sonsonate, capital of the department of the same name. This city, one of the country's oldest, still retains its colonial atmosphere in spite of its modern schools, theaters, and residential and business sections. The beautiful church of El Pilar and the Cathedral with its 17 cupolas of all sizes are a link with the past. On Sunday Indians from the neighboring villages in their colorful native dress gather in the market to sell their products and do their weekly shopping. The old church of San Antonio Monte, just outside the city, draws thousands of pilgrims from all parts of Central America in search of miraculous cures for their afflictions.

Sonsonate is also an important commercial center. It is connected with all parts of the country by highway and is on the railway to Acajutla, the port serving the western and central regions of the republic. The Department of Sonsonate is a rich coffee-growing area; it also produces sugar cane, tobacco, rice, tropical fruits, hides, and balsam. It is the chief cattle-raising region and is famous for its cream cheeses, milk, and butter.

The road from San Salvador to Sonsonate passes through a fertile region of coffee plantations, fields of sugar cane, rice, tropical fruit trees, and pasture lands. Shortly before reaching Sonsonate, you come to the town of Izalco, interesting because it has two contrasting sections—one Indian and the other *ladino* (mixed Spanish and Indian) each of which retains its distinctive characteristics.

The most interesting geographical feature of the region is the active Izalco Volcano. This is the most recently formed volcano in the world (with the exception of two in Mexico) and at present it is the most active one in Central America. It has risen over 6,000 feet since it first erupted from a flat plain in 1770. Izalco Volcano is universally known to mariners as the "Beacon of the Pacific," because its brilliant and periodic flares are visible far at sea. At night when white-hot rocks roll down its slopes it looks like a gigantic incandescent cone.

El Salvador's National Tourist Board has built two parks, Cerro Verde and Atecozal, which feature Izalco Volcano as a major attraction. Atecozol, "Fountain of the Lord of Waters," situated in a green valley south of the volcano, is considered one of the most charming spots in a land famous for its beautiful scenery. This tropical park has swimming pools, ponds for waterfowl, and winding rivulets, shaded by huge ceiba trees, palms, and aromatic balsam trees, all dominated by the fiery cone of Izalco in the distance.

Lake Coatepeque—famous for its beauty and its mineral waters

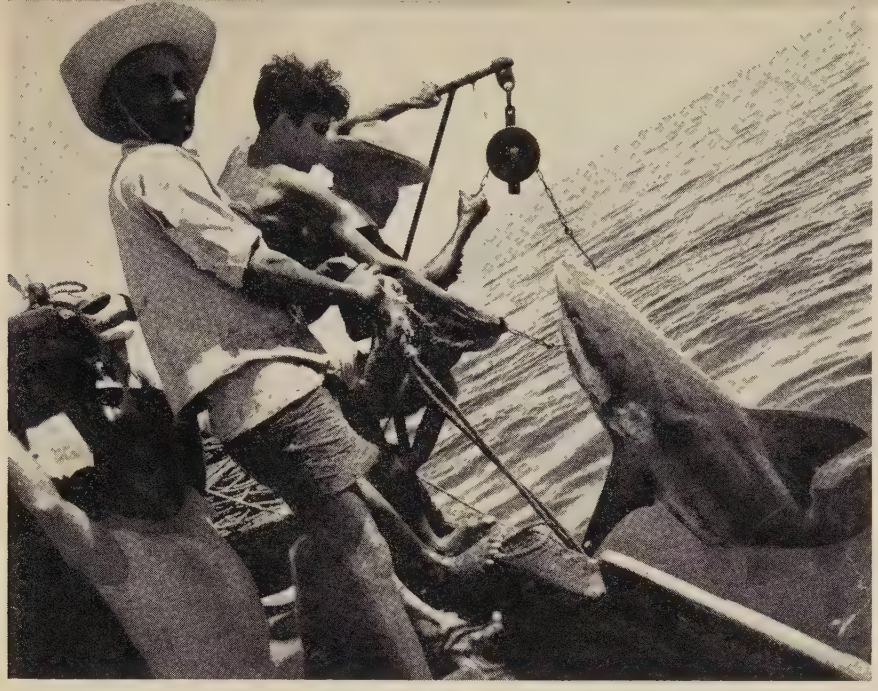
Salvadoreans look upon Cerro Verde National Park as their top tourist attraction. A 17-mile scenic road winds up Cerro Verde, a 6,168-foot peak, from the small town of El Congo on the Inter-American Highway. The resort hotel at the summit has a glass-walled salon from which Izalco, only 2,000 yards away, can be watched. At night the volcanic eruptions flare like spectacular fireworks, illuminating both Izalco and the slopes of Cerro Verde which join those of the volcano.

Acajutla, 13 miles from Sonsonate, was the principal port in colonial times and is today being transformed into the most modern port of the country. The old town has been rebuilt inland to make room for port improvements. Instead of loading and unloading all cargo by lighter, ships now dock at the new modern piers. Acajutla is also a popular seaside resort for residents of western El Salvador and tourists, offering good surf bathing and fishing.

Barra de Santiago, not far from Acajutla, is a favorite place for Salvadoreans who enjoy fishing. During holidays, the estuary is full of visitors and large "ramadas"

Western El Salvador's playground—the beaches near Acajutla

View of Atecozol Park featuring Izalco Volcano



A thrilling catch in the Bay of Fonseca

—shelters built of coconut leaves—are built along the beaches. The new Coastal Highway gives easy access to this beautiful spot and many others along the coast.

The stretch of coast between Acajutla and La Libertad, to the east, is the famous Balsam Coast. The valuable medicine and perfume base called "balsam of Peru" is obtained by tapping a special variety of balsam tree which grows on the ranges that run along the coastal plain and nowhere else in the world. It is believed that it got its name because the balsam was sent to Peru for transshipment to Spain in the Colonial period. The extraction of balsam forms the basis of an industry that dates back to pre-Columbian days.

Eastern El Salvador

The eastern zone includes four departments and is the least densely populated area of the country. Running east from San Salvador, the Inter-American Highway crosses the Lempa River over the magnificent Cuscatlán Bridge, the longest suspension bridge in Central America, and terminates at Cutuco on the Bay of Fonseca. San Miguel is the commercial center of eastern El Salvador and capital of the department of the same name. On the way to San Miguel there is a branch road to the charming mountain lake of Alegría, whose waters are very cold on the eastern shore and almost boiling on the western.

San Miguel, with 72,956 inhabitants, is situated at the foot of the volcanoes San Miguel and Chinameca. The city is the center of the henequen-growing area; cotton and dairy products are also important factors in the economic development of this rapidly growing community.

Beyond San Miguel are two main roads. One, the main route of the Inter-American Highway, runs to La Unión and Cutuco, with a branch from Sirama to the Goascorán Bridge on the Honduran border. The second runs from San Miguel to Goascorán.

La Unión, the capital of the department of the same name, is located in the easternmost part of the republic on an arm of the Gulf of Fonseca. As El Salvador's leading shipping point, La Unión handles roughly half of the country's exports and imports through its commercial port, Cutuco, about a mile away. Besides coffee, sugar, and cattle, this region produces poultry and a wide variety of fish. One of the local handicrafts is the manufacture of various articles from the shells of tortoises caught in the gulf.

Parque Libertad—
one of San Salvador's
principal parks

La Unión is the port of departure for delightful boat trips on the Gulf of Fonseca, in which there are several small islands belonging to El Salvador; among these are Meanguera, Conchagüita, Martín Pérez, and Meanguerita. Here one sees countless canoes loaded with fruit and fish being brought to market by the island's inhabitants. Playitas and El Tamarindo beaches, near La Unión, afford fishing, swimming, and beautiful scenery.

If the trip to La Unión is made via the Inter-American Highway, an interesting return trip can be made on the Coastal Highway. This road goes west along the coastal plains through cotton lands to quiet, peaceful Usulután. Not far from here is the sparkling Bay of Jiquilisco, where Salvadoreans like to go boating, fishing, and swimming. A branch road runs to Puerto El Triunfo on the Bay, where a $400,000-shrimp freezing plant was established in 1959 and is producing for export.

Both road and railway cross the Lempa River over the Golden Bridge at San Marcos. Continuing toward the capital, the road passes through Zacatecoluca and Olocuilta; the latter is an old town with a fine colonial church and a colorful market held on Sundays under spreading ceiba trees.

Historical and Political Development

A century before the Pilgrims set foot on Plymouth Rock, western civilization came to the land that is now El Salvador in the form of an invasion by Spanish *conquistadores*. Pedro de Alvarado set out with an army from Mexico in the latter part of 1523, under the orders of Hernán Cortés, then Governor of New Spain, and crossed the Río Paz into present-day El Salvador in June 1524.

The invasion was bitterly resisted by the native Indians. Alvarado was wounded and forced to return to Guatemala. The following year, he returned with reinforcements and completed the conquest. In April 1525 the city of *San Salvador de Cuscatlán* was founded. The native Indians, who had an advanced civilization, called their land and its capital Cuscatlán.

As part of the Captaincy-General of Guatemala, El Salvador remained under Spanish rule until the early nineteenth century, when the independence movement swept Spanish America. The outstanding Salvadorean leader in the movement for freedom was the priest José Matías Delgado who, on November 5, 1811, led an unsuccessful revolt. A second unsuccessful attempt, in 1814, was led by Manuel José Arce and Juan Manuel Rodríguez. In spite of these failures, the patriots persisted in their efforts and finally won independence on September 15, 1821, when the Captaincy-General of Guatemala followed Mexico's example and declared its independence from Spain.

The same year that independence was declared, the government at Guatemala City voted to unite the Central American provinces with Mexico. El Salvador, however, led by Father Delgado, opposed annexation until, in 1823, the Mexican Empire fell and all of Central America seceded.

The five Central American provinces remained united in the Federal Republic of Central America for a time, but soon split up into the present republics of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica. Sentiment for the federation, however, has remained active, and of late years El Salvador has made special efforts toward the realization of this ideal. The establishment of the Organization of Central American States in 1951 was a step in this direction and marked a united effort for the economic development of all Central America.

El Salvador promulgated its own Constitution on June 12, 1824, the first independent constitution adopted in Central America. On January 31, 1841, El Salvador's National Assembly formally proclaimed its separation from the federation. Throughout the rest of the nineteenth century the political life of the republic was characterized by turmoil. Liberals and Conservatives vied for power in a succession of intrigues and uprisings, while frequent altercations with neighboring states added to the unrest.

Twentieth-century Salvadorean governments have, in general, maintained order and peace. For 25 years after the turn of the century the country enjoyed an era of comparative peace which permitted extraordin-

Natives of Nahuizalco in typical dress

ary economic development, attended by improvements in communications and transportation. Shortly after the second quarter of the century began, internal difficulties commenced again and continued for several years, until they were put down by force in 1931 by General Maximiliano Hernández Martínez, who assumed the presidency and was in power until 1944, when he was forced to surrender the government to a less tyrannical chief executive.

The succeeding years have brought a return to a more representative government. In 1948, a revolutionary movement overthrew the dictatorial regime of Castañeda Castro, and a group of young and able leaders came to power, dedicated to economic and social reform and national development.

A new constitution went into effect on September 14, 1950, which reflects the trend in contemporary Latin American republics toward greater economic and social development. The Government of El Salvador is republican, democratic, and representative in form. The powers of government are exercised by the legislative, executive, and juridical branches. Sole legislative power is vested in the unicameral Legislative Assembly. Three deputies and two alternates from each department are elected by popular vote for two-year terms, with no barrier to re-election. The President is elected by direct, popular vote for a six-year term. He may not succeed himself nor run for the office of Vice President, or *Designado,* in the following election.

Customs and Culture

Before the Spanish conquest, the land that is now El Salvador was inhabited by the Pipil Indians, whose advanced civilization was related to that of the Mayas. Many of these Indians were farmers; others were potters, carpenters, masons, weavers, builders, and scholars. They were advanced enough to have developed a hieroglyphic writing; but no one today has been able to decipher it.

Because of the region's location on the Pacific, and particularly because of its lack of mineral wealth, Spanish colonization was limited. The small number of Spanish settlers intermarried with the Indians and built

a new race and civilizaton neither Spanish nor Indian, but a genuine fusion of both. Thus the dynamic and hard working Salvadoreans of today are a racially and socially homogeneous people.

The Pipil nation, probably founded in the eleventh century, was well developed by the sixteenth when the Spaniards arrived. Although primarily an agricultural people, they established several large towns; the present cities of Sonsonate and Ahuachapán were originally Pipil towns which served as market places for the distribution of produce. The Pipils were sun worshippers, whose worship was often expressed in the form of religious dances. Traditional folk dances are still a part of El Salvador's many colorful holidays and fiestas. Very early in their history, the Pipils abolished human sacrifice, thus showing a sensitivity rare among the Indians of their day.

Although the pure Indian strain has disappeared almost entirely, the Panchos from Panchimalco near the capital, and the Izalco Indians retain some of their old traditions. However, they are basically farmers and do not differ much from other farmers throughout the country. Their colorful villages and customs are a source of great interest to tourists and students of folklore.

In the village of Ponchimalco time seems to have stood still. The Panchos, full-blooded descendants of the Pipils, retain some of the ways of their forefathers. The women wear the traditional dress consisting of a loose blouse, brightly colored skirt cut long and full, and shawl over the head; many of them wear old necklaces heavy with Spanish coins.

The Indians of the towns of Izalco and Nahuizalco and the neighboring villages to the north also retain the dress and some of the typical customs of olden times. Many still speak their Indian language. The ceremonies held here during the Feast of St. John the Baptist are a fascinating blend of Christian and Indian rituals. This feature is a characteristic of many village festivals.

Life In El Salvador

The Salvadoreans of today are famed for their hospitality, and foreigners visiting the country find themselves

Local rodeos are enjoyed by Salvadoreans of all ages

in a homelike atmosphere. They are an industrious people, but enjoy social activities and outdoor recreation. The Salvadorean's love of beauty and gaiety finds expression in the many colorful festivals, civic and religious, which are held throughout the country.

Perhaps the most significant of these is the one held in the capital from July 24 to August 6 in honor of the patron saint of the republic, *El Salvador del Mundo* (The Saviour of the World). During this fiesta, booths are set up in the main plaza and adjoining streets, where handicrafts from all parts of the country are displayed for sale. The whole city decks itself in holiday dress. There are daily parades of allegorical floats, balls, concerts, and performances of traditional folkdances.

Another special day is the *Día del Indio* (Day of the Indian) on December 12, on which the Virgin of Guadalupe, patroness of the American Indian, is honored. On this day children and young people dress in beautiful Indian costumes. Large crowds gather at La Ceiba, near San Salvador, to visit the Church of Guadalupe. A charming custom marks the *Día de la Cruz* (Day of the Cross). Families trim a rustic cross in

Spanish colonial church at Metapán

Modern building of School of Engineering and Architecture of the University of El Salvador

their gardens with all kinds of bright paper decorations and juicy fruits that any visitor is free to eat.

Salvadoreans are a sports-loving people. The National Board of Physical Education and the Tourist Board are both active in promoting ways and means for everyone to enjoy sports. Many sporting clubs and associations sponsored by the government are encouraging sports as a means of improving the physical and moral welfare of the community.

El Salvador is considered the center of sports events in Central America. National and international games, sponsored by the Director General of Physical Education, are held in several centers and attract throngs of fans. Salvadoreans are justly proud of their National Stadium, the National Gymnasium, and the National Baseball Park. Every town in the republic, even in the most remote, has its athletic fields and gymnasiums. This lovely land also affords good boating, swimming, fishing, and hunting for all.

Education

Schools were established in El Salvador early in the colonial period. Following independence, Francisco Morazán did much to promote public education in Central America. However, well-to-do families usually sent their children abroad to be educated, and it was not until the first quarter of the twentieth century that an intensive program of public education was begun in El Salvador. Today the Ministry of Culture, which has jurisdiction over all branches of the school system, both private and public, is continually modernizing and expanding the country's educational facilities. The current national budget allocates the largest appropriation to the Ministry of Culture.

The educational system is divided into preschool, primary, secondary, and university categories. There are normal and secondary schools in the capital and many departments. The rural school system is being expanded rapidly in order to include even the smallest communities. The success of the national education program is reflected in the marked increase in the number of schools between 1950 and 1958: kinder-

gartens increased from 23 to 122; primary schools from 1,789 to 2,334 and secondary schools, from 22 to 301.

The University of El Salvador, an autonomous institution, had its beginning in the *Colegio de la Asunción* authorized by the Constitution of 1841. After many changes during its first century of existence—temporary suspension and removal to a new locale after a devastating earthquake—the University is now located in new, modern buildings on a beautiful campus; it has schools of law and social sciences, medicine, engineering, architecture, chemistry and pharmacy, dentistry, economics, and the humanities.

El Salvador's literacy campaign, now conducted by the Rural Education and Literacy Campaign Section of the Ministry of Culture, has achieved a reduction in illiteracy of 11.83 per cent in the last 20 years. It has been decreed that a literacy center must be created wherever there are more than 25 students over 15 years of age; there are now 430 or more such centers.

The Institute of Fine Arts, established in 1951, has had marked success. The Literary Department has published the works of outstanding Salvadorean novelists, poets, and essayists. Academies under the direction of renowned Salvadorean and foreign artists have been established by the departments of Plastic Arts and Music. Remarkable progress has been made by the Department of the Theater and Dancing, its numerous theatrical presentations and ballet performances being enthusiastically received.

Other educational institutions include the National Agricultural Institute, schools of public administration, social service, nursing, and various other vocational schools.

Art and Architecture

El Salvador can claim a share in one of the greatest of pre-Columbian civilizations, the Mayan. Ancient ruins have yielded carved stelae, decorated temples, and pottery covered with vivid glyphs and picture writings. Many relics are to be seen in the National Museum, in San Salvador. The fine volcanic ash covering so much of the land is largely responsible for the preservation of these interesting relics of a past culture. Some archaeologists believe that beneath the layers of volcanic lava lie the remains of a civilization antedating the Aztec, Maya, and Toltec cultures.

So successful were the colonizers in extirpating native artistic expression that it was not until after the middle of the sixteenth century that the decorative arts began to spring up once more in the land. Even after independence the development of a national art was hampered for many years by lack of official support; art education was considered a purely personal attribute and its contribution to the cultural growth of a people was ignored. It was not until the administration of Dr. Francisco Dueñas, who had been educated in Guatemala and Europe and was President three times between 1852 and 1864, that Salvadoreans had an opportunity to acquire at home some systematic art instruction through the establishment in San Salvador of an Academy of Fine Arts, with sections devoted to music, painting, and sculpture. A few years later schools of drawing and of lithography were established in the capital. Toward the end of the nineteenth century and early in the twentieth, the evolution of painting in El Salvador showed the influence of native artists who had studied in Europe and of European artists who taught in the local schools.

The first artist to gain international recognition was Juan Francisco Cisneros (1825-78), whose work is distinguished by the vivid contrasts of light and shadow in his portraits and in his large canvases, such as "Lot and His Daughters." Alberto Imery and Miguel Ortiz Villacorta, who studied in Rome, dominated the impressionistic school for several years on their return home. Ortiz Villacorta was the director of a second Academy of Fine Arts organized in the 1920's. José Mejía Vides, who studied in Mexico, specializes in portraying the people and customs of his land in a very simplified pattern style. Another outstanding contemporary painter, Mauricio Aguilar, who studied in Paris, is known for the international flavor of his works. Other painters who have received international recognition are Salazar Arrué, Luis Angel Salinas, Noé Canjura, Carlos Augusto Cañas, Julia Díaz, and Raúl Elas Reyes, who have exhibited both in the United States and in Europe.

Xipe-Totec, a pre-Columbian idol now in the National Museum of Archeology

Although there was, strictly speaking, no national architecture in El Salvador, the transplanted European styles, especially the baroque, took on a simplicity and purity of line in the hands of primitive Indian artisans.

The colonial architecture of El Salvador, dating principally from the eighteenth century, is almost entirely religious and in its simple charm, good proportions, and vigorous design is similar to that of the California missions. There was very little indigenous influence and little or no architectural sculpture. Interesting local characteristics, which developed as a result of the ever present danger of earthquakes, were low roofs, massive walls, and the use of a series of small domes in place of vaults in the nave. Another precaution was the use of polygonal cupolas at the crossing. In addition to the colonial churches of unquestioned artistic merit such as those in Metapán, San Vicente, and Sonsonate, El Salvador has numerous other religious structures characterized by a fine rusticity in both architecture and ornamental detail.

Literature

The earliest Salvadorean literature is found in the melancholy songs and legends of the Indians, gathered by word of mouth by the missionaries and chroniclers. During the colonial regime and up to the middle of the nineteenth century, classicism reigned supreme and perfection of form was the measure of literary achievement. Prominent figures of this period were Miguel Alvárez Castro, who defended the rights of the people in verse, and Enrique Hoyos whose political articles, written in a biblical style, helped shape the public opinion of his day. The classical period ended with the work of Ignacio Gómez, a lawyer, legislator, traveler, philosopher, lover of science, journalist, and poet, whose pen did much to popularize scientific, philosophical, esthetic, and ethical ideas.

Among the many eminent romantic writers of the last half of the nineteenth century are Antonio Guevara Valdés, a satiric poet and critic; Francisco Galindo, a master of oratory and cofounder of the National Theater; Rafael Reyes, historian, educator, and cham-

Masked dancer ready for the traditional dance of the Moors and Christians

Group of folkloric dancers and musicians

pion of liberal ideals; Salvador Carazo and Manuel Mayora Castillo, writers on national customs; and Antonia Galindo, a poet whose main theme was the tropics.

Modernism in El Salvador began with the work of Vicente Acosta, whose poetry reveals a liberal viewpoint and a keen insight. Francisco Gavida (1863-1955), one of the first modernists in El Salvador and a friend of Rubén Darío, gave new life to poetic forms. Prose writing has achieved a notable development in the present century. Its greatest exponent, Alberto Masferrer who died in 1932, was an educator, journalist, philosopher, and poet who dedicated his life and work to the cause of social justice and the defense of the under-privileged. His social philosophy is eloquently expressed in *La doctrina del mínimum vital.*

A profound human understanding and a realistic portrayal of native life characterize the works of Arturo Ambrogi (1875-1936) and Salarrué (Salazar Arrué), who with Rivas Bonilla belong to the "Generation of 1920," originators of the modern short story in El Salvador. Another intense realist is Miguel Angel Espino. One of Latin America's great lyric poets is Claudia Lars, whose musical sonnets and romantic verse are inspired by her deep spiritual and idealistic qualities of mind.

Music and Folklore

Among the principal contemporary composers is Humberto Pacas, a violinist and former Director of the National School of Music who is now living in the United States, and Esteban Servellon, who studied and performed in Italy. A composer of popular music, Pancho Lara is internationally known for his *El Carbonero.*

Among the leading folklorists of the republic are Dr. Rafael González Sol, who has written several books on the history of music in El Salvador, and María de Baratta, who has spent many years collecting Indian music. Her recently published *Cuzcatlán Típico*, two volumes of essays on the ethnomusicology of El Salvador, is an outstanding achievement.

Some of the old folk dances are still popular in the country districts of El Salvador. Each year at the Fiesta of San Salvador, Indians come to the capital from all parts of the republic to perform their traditional dances such as "Moros y Cristianos."

Social Progress

The industrious Salvadoreans, aided by an interested government, are steadily achieving better health, better homes, better working conditions, and a generally higher standard of living. Social progress during the past decade is marked by improved educational facilities; the training of teachers, nurses and social workers; the development of home economics workshops; modernized hospital planning and administration; development of water and sewage systems and education in sanitation; large housing programs; better labor standards; and a significant reduction in illiteracy.

Public Health

The physical well-being of Salvadoreans is the first concern of the Ministry of Public Health and Welfare. Through departmental delegations and field offices, traveling health brigades, hospitals, laboratories, and various types of dispensaries and clinics, the government is continually working to protect the lives and health of the people throughout the country. Special campaigns against hookworm, yellow fever, and malaria have resulted either in wiping out these diseases, or in greatly lessening their threat to the health of the population. Control of tuberculosis is a major project.

The Ministry maintains a constant check on the products sold in the markets and stores, and its sanitary engineers pass on building plans, inspect the construction of sewage systems, and visit homes regularly to investigate conditions and to see that sanitary equipment complies with regulations. Among the institutions serving specific needs are the Vaccine Institute, the Anti-Rabies Institute, and the Anti-Tuberculosis Dispensary. The Health Department has also set up numerous nutritional clinics which, among other services, give free milk to the school children every day.

Model Health Units have been established in such centers as Santa Tecla, Santa Ana, and San Miguel. An ever increasing public health service helps in case-finding, both in tuberculosis and in the campaign against venereal disease. The organization of child welfare work on a large scale—including pre-natal, natal, and post-natal services, recreation clinics, midwife registration, child clinics, and school hygiene—is an important phase of the health program.

The success of these projects is reflected in the infant mortality rate, which was reduced from 81 per 1,000 live births in 1950 to 70.3 in 1956; and in the crude death rate, which declined from 14.8 to 12.4 per 1,000 persons in the same period.

Labor

Since 1945 the Government of El Salvador has been developing a long-range, broad-scale program of social development looking toward the improvement of the living conditions of the workers. This program, carried out by the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare and the Ministry of Education, emphasizes workers' education, and sponsors projects in literacy; the training of workers for union activity and community life; and specialized technical training.

The labor movement has developed quickly during the last decade, following a decree in 1950 permitting the organization of trade unions. Workers were organized into 26 trade unions by August 1951; there are now well over 50. The unions of railroad workers, electric power plant workers, and construction and textile workers are among the best organized. The labor unions encompass chiefly those economic activities related to services and, to a lesser degree, industry. Sixty-three per cent of the total population is engaged in agricultural work.

The country's producers are organized economically into employers' organizations such as the Coffee Growers', Cotton Growers', and Sugar Growers' cooperatives, the Cattle Growers' Association, and the Chamber of Industry and Commerce.

Labor probably fared better in 1954 than in any previous year. The government demonstrated its interest in improving the welfare of labor, particular stress being given to social improvement programs. The Social Security Institute was put into operation, with benefits financed by contributions from workers, employers,

The Rural Colonization Institute provides new rural homes like the one above

Urban housing project at San Miguel

and the government. El Salvador's labor legislation is being worked out with moderation and a sense of economic responsibility.

Housing

In 1950 the Government created the institutes of Urban Housing and of Rural Colonization in an effort to alleviate the serious lack of low-cost housing developments and to keep abreast of the rapid increase in population. Housing projects are underway on a large scale and in widely separated sections of the country. At the end of 1958, the Institute of Urban Housing had built 4,464 one-family houses and 33 multi-family buildings containing 562 apartments.

The purpose of the Institute of Rural Colonization is to develop more efficient use of small rural properties. It is setting up "rural communities" comprising buildings and homes erected by the Institute with the help of other government agencies.

The government, with technical assistance from the United Nations, has made the central zone between San Salvador and Santa Ana into a demonstration area, to serve as a model for the rest of the country. This is only one of the many instances in which El Salvador has invited technical assistance from both international and private organizations in its positive approach toward economic and social development for all its citizens.

Economic Development

El Salvador is essentially an agricultural country and its major industries are related to products of the soil. For many years a one-crop country, El Salvador is today promoting the diversification of crops and the development of new industries to lessen its dependence on coffee.

Agriculture

Agriculture is of basic importance to El Salvador, occupying some 63 per cent of its economically active population. Because of the dense population, the soil is cultivated intensively, about three fourths of the total area being devoted to agriculture. The export of agricultural commodities accounts for most of the country's foreign exchange earnings.

The government has an active and progressive agricultural policy. Since little additional land is available for cultivation, the policy is to increase production through the modernization and improvement of farm methods. The National Agricultural Center and the Ministry of Agriculture are carrying on intensive programs for the propagation and distribution of seed for better crops, and extension services to promote improvement in production methods through instruction in pest control, fertilization, soil conservation, and reforestation.

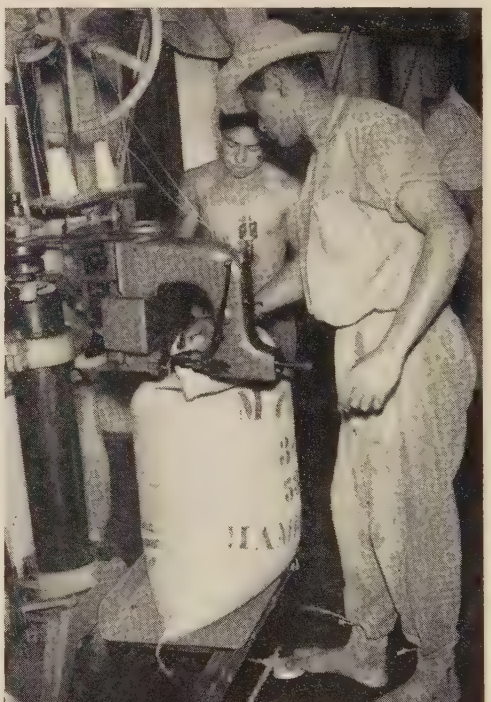
Coffee is the most important export crop, followed by cotton, sesame, and the unique balsam that only El Salvador produces. Some henequen, vegetable fats and oils, honey, sugar, oil of citronella, rice, and indigo are also exported. For crops for domestic consumption, by far the largest acreage is devoted to corn and sorghum, followed by beans, sugar cane, rice, and henequen.

Although El Salvador is the smallest of the American republics, it ranks third or fourth among the great coffee-exporting nations of the Western Hemisphere, after Brazil and Colombia and, some years, after Mexico.

How El Salvador started to raise coffee is an interesting story. Back in 1840 a Brazilian school teacher in El Salvador so missed his morning cup of coffee that he decided to grow his own coffee trees. From the Brazilian's two trees, the republic's coffee plantations have grown to some 150,000,000 trees, producing between 1,000,000 and 1,500,000 bags of 132 pounds of coffee each year.

Coffee is grown in all the 14 departments, but most extensively in the relatively high western part of the country between San Salvador and the Guatemalan border. It is also an important crop on the higher slopes of the upland area east of the Lempa River.

There are two coffee growers' associations in the republic: the Coffee Growers' Association and the Salvadorean Coffee Company. The Coffee Growers' Association, established in 1930, is composed of all coffee growers over 18 years of age, natives and foreigners. Its objectives are to study the problems of production, distribution, and consumption of Salvadorean coffee, the improvement of the quality of the crop, and to give



Workers sack El Salvador's famous coffee for shipment

Coffee beans drying in the sun

assistance to growers when needed. El Salvador is a member of the Pan-American Coffee Bureau, the Coffee Federation of Central America and Mexico (FEDECAME), and a signatory of the International Coffee Agreement.

Cotton ranks next to coffee as an agricultural export. Since 1950 cotton acreage along the coastal plains has doubled and total production has expanded even more because of the higher yield resulting from improved cotton varieties and better methods of cultivation. The 1958-59 cotton crop was estimated at a record 200,000 bales, 29 per cent higher than for 1957-58, and a seven-fold increase over 1953-54. Most of the output comes from relatively large plantations.

All cotton growers in the republic belong to the Salvadorean Cotton Growers' Cooperative, which was organized in 1940 to control cotton production and marketing activities in the country. In 1959 an Inter-American Cotton Federation (FIDA), similar to FEDECAME, was created by the Central American republics and Mexico.

Sesame rose to importance as an export crop during the postwar period. Acreage and production almost quadrupled in the years 1946-50. Unlike cotton, sesame is grown mostly on smaller farms, the majority of which are located on the coastal plain of the departments of Usulután and San Miguel. It is also cultivated in other regions up to elevations of 1,800 feet.

Turning cotton into thread for the textile mills

Packing a tropical "snowdrift" of cotton

The principal crop and chief food of the people of El Salvador is corn, which is raised in every department on a large scale, especially in La Libertad, Usulután, San Miguel, and Chalatenango. Experimentation with hybrid corn, carried out under the auspices of the joint United States-Salvadorean Technical Agricultural Services, is helping to stimulate domestic production. Thus it is hoped that crops can keep pace with the expanding population, making imports of corn unnecessary.

Sorghum, beans, rice, sugar cane, and tropical and semi-tropical fruits are raised for domestic consumption. Sugar cane is cultivated in lowland sections, chiefly in the departments of San Salvador, La Libertad, and Sonsonate, although almost every department grows some sugar cane. It is raised on both large plantations and small farms. More than one-half of all sugar cane raised in the country is converted into *panela*, the popular brown sugar of Latin America.

Henequen is one of the few industrial crops raised in El Salvador. This fiber, produced chiefly in San Miguel and Morazán departments, grows well on land that is unsuitable for most other crops, and output can be increased without competing with essential food crops. Most of the production is utilized by a local factory in the manufacture of bags for coffee, sugar, cereals, and other agricultural produce. Ropes, hammocks, twine, and nets are also produced from this fiber. Experiments are being made to utilize industrially another cactus-like plant, called *izote*, which is employed extensively as a hedge and soil-retaining plant on coffee plantations.

Stockraising is carried on in practically all sections of the republic, but the larger cattle centers are located in the coastal lowlands. Both the Ministry of Agriculture and the Association of Salvadorean Cattlemen are working to modernize and improve the cattle industry. Between 1939 and 1957 the number of cattle increased from 451,000 to 917,000 head.

Industrial Growth

During the last decade the republic has experienced a rapid industrial growth, and the outlook for continued

industrialization of El Salvador is favorable. An enterprising group of local businessmen are continuously seeking new opportunities, and governmental policies are being developed which encourage investment.

About 100 new industrial plants have been established during the past five years and many existing plants have been expanded, thus helping to diversify and strengthen the country's economy. Among the new industries are Central America's first steel mill, a 45,000-ton cement factory, and plants for the production of soluble coffee, insecticides and fungicides, paint and varnish, and textiles and shoes.

The slow, but steadily increasing investment of domestic capital in industry and in other fields apart from coffee is a direct and important result of the government's promotion of industry. This marks a significant trend, since in the past a large part of coffee profits was invested abroad.

The government's cooperation with business in furthering the country's economic and social progress has also produced a favorable climate for foreign investment on a partnership basis. In the past there was little contact between El Salvador and foreign sources of capital and enterprise. The country developed its agriculture through its own resources, rather than through large foreign investment. Recently, however, there has been an awakening of mutual interest on the part of El Salvador and foreign investors in cooperative ventures, leading to the country's further development. The first important step in this direction was taken in October 1954 with the organization by Salvadorean and United States interests of a company to produce soluble coffee.

Of El Salvador's traditional local industries, the most important is the textile industry which is the largest in Central America, followed by foods and beverages; cement and bricks; simple chemicals, such as soap, candles, matches, and fertilizers; leather tanneries; cigarettes; footwear and hats; and cardboard. In addition, there are small woodworking shops, printing establishments, and machinery and metal-repair shops.

The Department of San Salvador is the most highly industrialized region, followed by La Libertad, Santa Ana, San Miguel, Usulután, and San Vicente. Nearly every community throughout the country has its own special industry, such as Izalco's famous textiles, Morazán's henequen articles, and Ilobasco's pottery. These native industries are a notable reflection of the artistry and skill inherited from the Indian civilization.

Power

The government of El Salvador has built hydroelectric power plants as one of the basic steps in its industrial development program. By harnessing the Lempa River with the Fifth of November Dam, northeast of San Salvador, and the Desague Dam near Lake Guija, the republic has placed itself in the fortunate position of having abundant and relatively low cost power. Further expansion is planned to meet future demands. Research is also being carried on as to the possibility of harnessing volcanic energy, as has been done in other countries.

Transportation

Another important factor in El Salvador's economic progress is its highway network, which gives access to all productive regions of the republic. The government maintains a continuous road-improvement program, the country being better suited to the development of roads than railways because of the short distances. However, the bulk of freight is shipped over the railway lines which connect the important areas of the republic with the capital, and with two of the country's three ports, as well as Guatemala's port of Barrios on the Atlantic.

The principal road project now under way is the construction of an all-weather network throughout the Pacific coastal plain connecting with the new Coastal Highway. This is part of the government's plan to increase and diversify agricultural production through opening new and under-utilized land. Parts of the 190-mile highway are now in use and work on the remainder is well advanced. Feeder roads, totaling 230 miles, will branch from the highway, providing an adequate road system throughout the entire region. This

The Fifth of November Dam

A typical rural road (below)

highway will provide an important link for through traffic across El Salvador from the Guatemalan border to Honduras and countries to the south.

The Pacific coastal plains contain the only sizeable expanse of fertile land remaining to be developed in El Salvador. This area is suitable for crop cultivation, livestock raising, and dairy farming, but most of it has been virtually inaccessible. The new road network is opening this region to settlement, thus alleviating population pressures elsewhere in El Salvador and providing more employment for the labor force. The increased output of corn, rice, truck crops, and meat products expected from the region should reduce El Salvador's relatively large food imports, and higher production of cotton for export should increase foreign exchange earnings. The roads will also make the country's beautiful beaches more accessible to vacationists and tourists.

One of the coffee mills which process the country's leading export crop

Foreign Trade

Foreign trade is a matter of vital concern to El Salvador's economy. Like most of the Latin American republics, it is a producer of raw material surpluses and, in spite of recent industrial developments, it is still greatly dependent on imports to supply its needs for finished goods. Foreign trade has more than quadrupled in value during the postwar period. The value of exports has increased steadily from $25 million in 1946 to an estimated $116 million in 1958. Imports have followed the trend of exports, but the traditional excess of exports over imports has been maintained.

In 1958 coffee accounted for 72.2 per cent of all exports, followed by cotton. The United States is El Salvador's chief customer, and from the United States come most of the country's imports. However, Europe is a growing market for Salvadorean coffee and cotton. The principal buyers of green coffee are the United States, Germany, and Holland, in that order; of soluable coffee, Germany, the United States, Italy, and the other Central American countries. In 1957 the United States took 39.7 per cent of total exports; Germany, 32.4 per cent; and Japan, 10.5 per cent. The chief imports are machinery, vehicles, iron and steel, wheat, and petroleum products.

Salvadorean exports to other Central American countries have been promoted by the free-trade treaties negotiated with each of the other countries. In January 1960 El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras adopted a Treaty of Economic Association, which will create a customs union within five years. This treaty, of twenty years' duration, provides for free interchange of goods, persons, and capital among the three countries. El Salvador has more trade with the rest of Latin America than has any other Central American country.

Banking and Public Finance

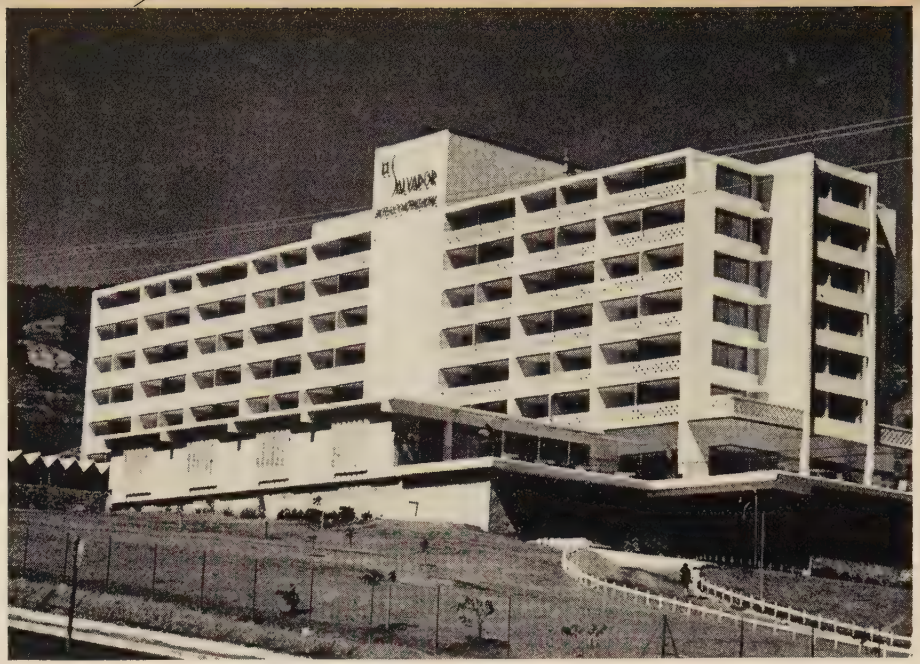
The basic monetary unit, established by law in 1919, is the *colón,* divided into 100 centavos. Since August 1934, the colón has been stabilized in world market quotations at two-and-a-half to the United States dollar. The Central Reserve Bank, created in August 1934, performs the usual central banking functions and is the sole bank of issue. It is the fiscal agent of the government, but operates free of governmental or political influence; its profits are strictly limited. The Bank has its main office in San Salvador with branches in Santa Ana and Sonsonate, and eight correspondents in other parts of the country.

There are six domestic commercial banks: the Salvadorean Bank, the Mortgage Bank, the Commerce Bank, Banco Agrícola Comercial, Banco de Crédito y Ahorro, and Capitalizadora de Ahorros. The Bank of London and Montreal is the only foreign institution.

With a view to making agricultural, industrial, and commercial credit available at reasonable interest rates to small farmers and various types of workers unable to furnish the customary collateral, the Mortgage Bank of El Salvador has cooperated with the government in the formation of a series of independent rural credit funds throughout the republic; this setup is called the Federation of Rural Credit Funds. The Federation's primary activity is in the field of rural credit, but it also engages in extending loans to small businessmen.

The republic turned in budget surpluses for several years prior to 1958. In 1958 expenditures outran receipts due to lower income from coffee export taxes. The 1959 budget amounted to $72.4 million. Principal items of revenue are as follows: direct taxation, import duties, liquor taxes, licenses, and miscellaneous; administrative services and public enterprises. The most important budget appropriations are for public works, education, national defense, and public health and social welfare. Net gold and foreign exchange holdings equalled $56.8 million at the end of June 1959, against circulating media of $97.74 million.

TRAVEL INFORMATION
Entry
Requirements
International
Communications



San Salvador's modern Hotel
El Salvador-Intercontinental

Travel Information

Entry requirements, transportation routes and schedules, and customs regulations are subject to change. Therefore, when planning your trip, you should obtain the latest information from the Consulate of El Salvador, a local travel agency, steamship lines, airline companies, or from the office of Inter-American Tourist Service* of the Pan American Union.

Entry Requirements

A Tourist Card, good for 90 days, can be obtained free of charge from any Salvadorean Consulate or from transportation companies with local offices in El Salvador; it can be extended in El Salvador by the Ministry of the Interior. Passengers in transit by ship, plane, or highway may stay 48 hours without documents if vouched for by their transportation company.

Businessmen entering on a tourist card or visa may not engage in remunerative activities other than those stated on the entry permit. Under El Salvador's Immigration Law foreigners are classified in three categories—tourists, temporary residents, and permanent residents.

International Communications

El Salvador can be reached by air, sea, rail, and highway. The Pan American Airways System, TACA, TAN, International Airlines, and Líneas Aéreas Costarricenses, S.A. (LACSA) have regular flights to San Salvador; American Airlines and Air France make connections in Mexico City with TACA and Pan American Airways.

The United Fruit company has regular sailings from New York and New Orleans to Puerto Barrios, Guatemala, connecting with the International Railways of Central America from Puerto Barrios to San Salvador. The Grace Line and the Johnson Line serve the Pacific Coast ports of Acajutla, La Libertad, and La Unión.

The railway journey from the United States to El Salvador is long and slow in places, but it is an interesting trip, offering the opportunity to visit different

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* As part of its informational services, this office publishes: *Requirements for the Entry of United States Tourists into the Latin American Republics.*—$0.10; *Directory of Hotels, Central America, Panama and the West Indies.*—$0.10; and *The Pan American Highway System.*—$0.50. Order publications from the Sales and Promotion Division, Pan American Union, Washington 6, D.C.

Ilopango International Airport

countries of varied climates, customs, scenery and distinctive tourist attractions.

The Pan American Highway provides a continuous overland route from the United States into El Salvador via Mexico and Guatemala. Roads link the country with Honduras and Nicaragua.

Transport within El Salvador

Distances in El Salvador are so short and the road network so adequate that it is easy to travel by car or bus. The International Railways of Central America cross the country from the Guatemalan border to Cutuco; and the Salvador Railway connects San Salvador with Acajutla and with Santa Ana. Air transport in El Salvador is important only for international traffic.

Tourist and other travelers, except those entering on resident visas, may bring their car without payment of import duties for a period of 30 days, which may be extended 30 days more. Cars must be registered with the traffic division of the Police Department within three days after arrival.

Visitors can obtain detailed information from the National Tourist Board, with offices at Ilopango Airport and at Calle Rubén Dario 619, in San Salvador; and from Ibalaca Tours, El Salvador Travel Services, and the National Automobile Club, all with offices in San Salvador.

Currency and Prices

The monetary unit of El Salvador is the *colón*, which at the present rate of exchange (April 1960) is equal to $0.40 U. S. currency. The colón is divided into 100 centavos, with silver coins of 25 centavos; nickel pieces of 3, 5, and 10 centavos, and copper one-centavo coins. Paper bills are issued in denominations of 1, 2, 5, 10, 25, and 100 colones. There are exchange facilities for small amounts of foreign currency at the principal ports of entry. Larger sums may be exchanged at the banks or money exchanges (Casas de Cambio) without restriction.

Hotels and Restaurants

There are hotels and attractive pensions in San Salvador and other major cities, including the ports of Acajutla and La Libertad. A new hotel in San Salvador and a modern tourist lodge at Cerro Verde National Park are a part of the government's new program to promote tourism. The National Tourist Board is building parks and improving camping and beach facilities in order to make the country's beauty spots accessible to all.

A popular market in San Salvador

In the larger hotels and restaurants international dishes are served, but most visitors like to sample native foods. Typical dishes of the country are related to those of the other Central American countries and Mexico, with corn *tortillas* as a base for a number of tasty dishes.

El Salvador's many tropical fruits are delicious; they include mangoes, papayas, anones, guanabas, zapotes, and granadillas (passion fruit), as well as pineapples, avocados, and bananas. There are many delicious varieties of lake and river fish.

Handicrafts

The better shops and stores are found in the center of San Salvador. Salvadoreans are not accustomed to bargaining and generally quote fixed prices. San Salvador's souvenir shops offer a great variety of attractive and artistic handicraft goods. During special fairs, unique regional products not ordinarily on display can often be picked up, such as the beautiful gourd bowls made in Izalco and the famous miniature pottery dolls of Ilobasco. Articles of tortoise shell and pieces of hand-wrought silver can be found, as well as handmade leather shoes, slippers, and bags.

The many kinds of woven goods include the fine cotton textiles from Panchimalco; blankets, rugs, tablecloths, and curtains from other sections; innumerable articles woven of sisal fiber and hides such as hammocks, bags, and sandals; and the gaily decorated baskets woven of coconut leaves, the most famous being those from Apeneca. These can be found in the little shops of the Central Market in San Salvador.

Suitable Clothing

Summer clothes with a light wrap, or light-weight woolens, are suitable clothing in El Salvador all year round. Men ordinarily wear dark or neutral colored tropical worsteds or Palm Beach suits. Women sometimes wear light wool suits, but not woolen dresses. The climate is tropical in the lowlands, semi-tropical in the plateau region, and temperate on the upper mountain slopes. Rainfall is relatively abundant from May to October; the dry season, or "summer," lasts from November to April. A light raincoat is needed in the rainy season.

Salvadoreans are gracious hosts and all visitors—tourist or businessman—will find a visit to this beautiful and progressive land a delightful and rewarding experience.

Salvadorean handicrafts attract tourists

FACTS AND FIGURES

Area: 8,061 square miles

Population: 2,475,655*

Capital: San Salvador

Population: 232,659

Official language: Spanish

Unit of currency: the colón (equal to $0.40 U.S.)

National flower: The white blossom of the coffee tree.

National tree: The pink flowered Maquilishuat tree.

Flag: Two horizontal blue stripes separated by a white one.

Department	Area Sq. Km. [1]	Population [2]	Capital	Population [2]
Ahuachapán	1,281	122,682	Ahuachapán	37,934
Cabañas	1,075	102,103	Sensuntepeque	28,791
Chalatenango	2,507	137,257	Chalatenango	15,127
Cuscatlán	766	113,489	Cojutepeque	18,247
La Libertad	1,650	187,027	Nueva S. Salvador (Sta. Tecla)	39,927
La Paz	1,155	128,625	Zacatecoluca	37,441
La Unión	1,738	150,405	La Unión	19,566
Morazán	1,364	126,717	S. Franc. Gotera	12,922
Santa Ana	1,829	264,837	Santa Ana	130,976
San Miguel	2,532	224,888	San Miguel	72,956
San Salvador	892	395,284	San Salvador	232,659
San Vicente	1,175	113,476	San Vicente	33,288
Sonsonate	1,133	154,112	Sonsonate	29,443
Usulután	1,780	210,012	Usulután	28,224

Source: Dirección General de Estadística

* Estimate at the end of 1958.

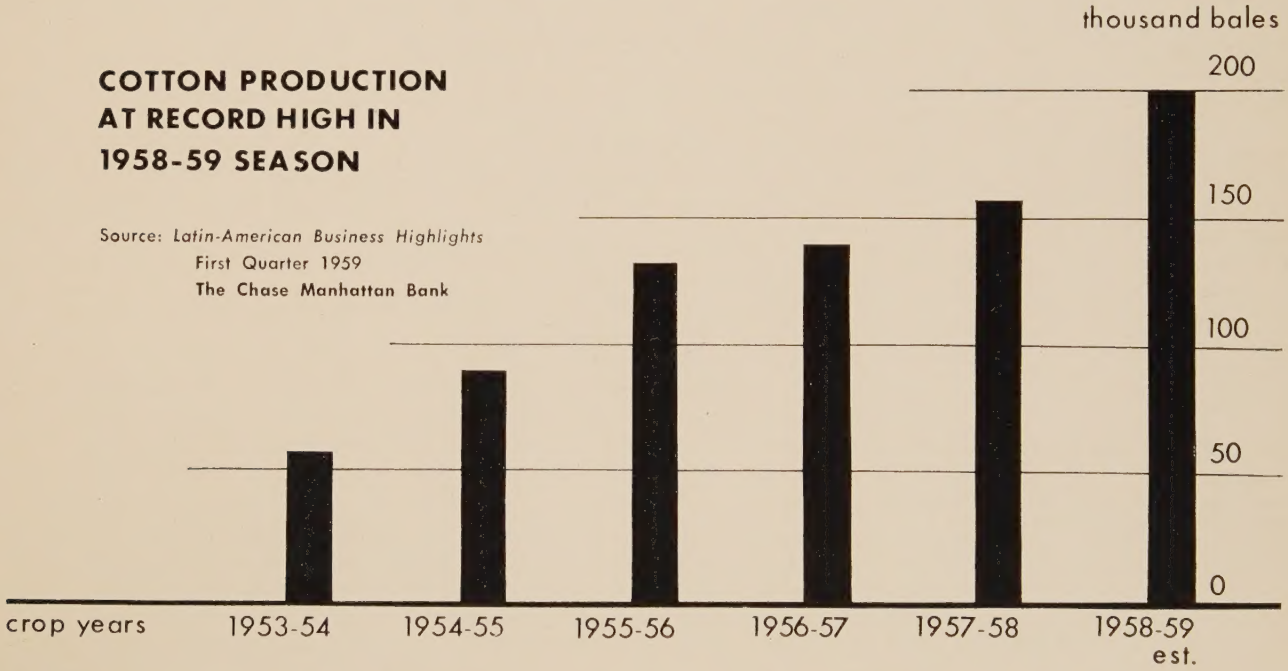
[1] One square mile equals 2.59 square kilometers.

[2] Population as of July 1, 1958.

IMPORTS—EXPORTS

Year	Imports 1,000's of Colones	Exports 1,000's of Colones	Balance
1952	176,427	220,713	44,286
1953	183,539	281,827	98,288
1954	216,856	262,612	45,756
1955	229,704	267,327	37,623
1956	261,752	281,827	20,075
1957	287,615	346,159	58,813
1958	270,100	290,100	20,000

Source: Anuario Estadístico 1957, Vol. II.



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The Organization of American States (OAS) is an international organization created by the 21 American republics to achieve an order of peace and justice, to promote their solidarity, to strengthen their collaboration, and to defend their sovereignty, territorial integrity, and independence. The member states are Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the United States, Uruguay, and Venezuela. The ideal of Western Hemisphere unity was conceived by the Liberator Simón Bolívar and found its first expression in the Treaty of Union signed at the Congress of Panama in 1826. The present organization is an outgrowth of the International Union of American Republics, created in 1890 during the First International Conference of American States, held in Washington, D.C.

The Inter-American system was reorganized and given its present name in a Charter adopted at the Ninth International Conference of American States (Bogotá, Colombia, 1948). The Charter brought together the principles of American law that had developed during the preceding years; it also specified the organs or agencies through which the Organization was to accomplish its purposes. The OAS now functions through six principal organs:

PAN AMERICAN UNION · WASHINGTON D. C.

1. The Inter-American Conference, supreme organ of the Organization, which meets every five years to decide general action and policy.
2. The Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, which meets on request to consider problems of an urgent nature and of common interest, and which serves as the Organ of Consultation to deal with threats to the peace and security of the Continent.
3. The Council, which is composed of one representative from each state. It may act provisionally as Organ of Consultation. The Council has three organs: the Inter-American Economic and Social Council, the Inter-American Council of Jurists, and the Inter-American Cultural Council.
4. The Pan American Union, which is the central and permanent organ and General Secretariat of the OAS, with headquarters in Washington, D.C.
5. The Inter-American Specialized Conferences, which deal with special technical matters and develop specific aspects of inter-American cooperation.
6. The Inter-American Specialized Organizations, which have specific functions with respect to technical matters of common interest to the American states. There are six such agencies: The Inter-American Children's Institute, the Inter-American Commission of Women, the Inter-American Indian Institute, the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences, the Pan American Health Organization, and the Pan American Institute of Geography and History.

Through these organs and agencies, the OAS functions effectively to strengthen the peace and security of the Continent; to prevent possible causes of difficulties and to ensure the pacific settlement of disputes; to provide for common action in the event of aggression; to seek the solution of political, juridical, and economic problems that may arise among the American states; and to promote, by cooperative action, their economic, social and cultural development.

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